

The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME."

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J. W. WHEELER, General Manager,
JAMES C. HERBERT, Editor,
A. RAYMUND, Advertising Manager,
CHARLES V. HENNING, Circulation Manager,
J. MONROE BOYER, Superintendent.

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THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 27, 1917.



SIGNIFICANT ACTION.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S proclamation taking over the railroads of the country for the period of the war is notice that from now on the government is not going to permit anything to stand in the way of vigorous prosecution of the war aims of the Republic.

As for the railroads, the proclamation itself and the fact that he named Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, who is not a railroad man, as director general, indicates that Mr. Wilson is satisfied that the operating chiefs have all along been animated by a spirit of patriotism and have done everything in their power to cooperate with the government and to carry their heavy load. Government control is merely preparation for eventualities and to insure that there will be no needless delay in applying any and all remedies that might be needed, at the same time preserving intact the properties for their owners.

The taking over of the roads, even though they are to all intents and purposes to be left in charge of the men who have been managing them in the past, will mark a turning point in the war policies of the administration if it really means what it seems to mean. There is a widespread feeling that there has not been enough vigor and coordination at Washington. Mr. Wilson's action of yesterday indicates that he recognizes the justness of that criticism. Perhaps it is also an indication that he means to stiffen up the policies all along the line.

IN THE LUMP.

THE recently adopted custom of Congress of presenting the Executive officers of the Government with large lump sums to be spent in their discretion has had the natural consequence of bringing what may be called "lump reports" from those officials. To pay the expenses of floating the first liberty bonds and the certificates of indebtedness authorized at the same time the Secretary of the Treasury was given a sum equal to one-tenth of one percent of the amount of bonds and certificates. He has now rendered a report to Congress purporting to show how the money was spent. The total expenditure to date has been slightly over two million dollars, of which more than half was spent by the Federal Reserve banks. The report merely shows the total spent by each bank. For instance, the bank at New York disposed of over \$278,000, and the public is left to its own conclusions as to what became of the money.

NOT A FAILURE.

SENATOR VARDAMAN, who opposed the declaration that a state of war with Germany existed, seems to be in favor of the government taking over the mining industry of the nation in its entirety. Perhaps some subtle sympathy for Prussianism is responsible for both positions. Certain it is that Senator Vardaman thinks ought to be done would be the Prussian way of handling the problem, while what the government and the Fuel administration is trying to do is the good old way of giving the individual as much freedom of action as the best interests of the whole permit—an economic theory which we inherited along with the Common Law and our basic ideas of government.

The fuel situation throughout the nation is bad, but the man who condemns the Fuel administration as a failure does not know what he is talking about. Who can tell what the Fuel administration would have been able to do if Congress had passed the legislation under which Dr. Garfield is operating when it should have been passed, six or eight

RUFF STUFF

Playah. Old Woody has grabbed all the private cars.

Guess we'll have to stay home this winter.

Hear the B. & O. has assigned two cars to the city of Fairmont so that there will be no danger of coal shortage at the pumping station.

But they are flat bottom boats.

Har, har!

That means twice as much shoveling as before.

And golly, how that guy out at the pumps does like to shovel.

It's all right, Commissioner, no trouble at all about saving those two car loads of coal a month.

The guy in the super's office up at Grafton took care of that when he picked out those cars.

There'll be a lot of new government

employees around here about noon tomorrow.

That ought to revive interest in the way the postoffice strike ended.

Got to be mighty careful how you quit working for your Uncle Sammie.

According to the gossip about town this morning the M. V. T. had added a new one to the government program—heatless day.

One does not freeze nearly so quick while in motion.

Walking to work will become popular if refrigerating cars become the rule.

All the Pittsburgh papers have become afternoon issues as far as this burg is concerned.

At least no one takes the trouble to see that the morning editions are distributed before noon.

Perhaps it will be better after the weather warms up.

But by that time folks will be out of the habit of reading them.

weeks before it was, and the railroad situation had been even half way normal?

Everything considered the Fuel administration is doing very well. Nothing could have prevented a fuel crisis this winter and now that the situation is beginning to ease up Dr. Garfield is perhaps justified in his belief that he has it in hand. Moreover the coal situation is much like the transportation situation. If the extremists prevail and the government does take over the whole industry it will simply have to turn to the men who are now running the mines and the distributing machinery and say to them: The government is in control here, but you will have to do the work.

And if that comes the consumer and the people who are now clamoring for government control are quite apt to discover that the first effect will be an increase in the price of coal at the point where it is consumed.

BUSINESS IN FAIRMONT.

HOLIDAY business in Fairmont, it is agreed by those who are in position to know, set new high records. Holiday stocks are well cleared out and most merchants could have sold more goods if they had had them in stock.

Yet brisk as it was it by no means was as good as it might have been if the merchants generally had had more faith and made a more consistent drive for additional business. Thousands of dollars went out of Fairmont for merchandise that might just as well have been purchased in this city.

Right now, although the car supply is as yet unsatisfactory, the Fairmont coal region is enjoying a condition very much like that which has existed in the hard coal region since the wage agreement made back in the first Roosevelt administration. Pay roll disbursements at high rates are as steady as the march of time and they will continue indefinitely in large volume. The people who draw this money will want to spend a certain proportion of it and if the local merchants do not encourage them to spend it here they will spend it some where else.

In the anthracite region most of the merchants rose to the occasion and made preparations to get their share of the steady flow of money which continued operation of the mines at good wages for the mine workers made possible. It would pay local merchants to study the merchandising methods of Scranton, Wilkes Barre, Pottsville, Hazleton and even of the smaller hard coal towns. For some of them such an investigation ought to amount to a short cut to fortune.

The selection of the Secretary of the Treasury as the director general of the railroads of the country is tantamount to an announcement that the government recognizes that the difficulty with the transportation plant of the country now is financial. During the Civil war it was operating and the roads were run by an assistant secretary of war. Tom Scott, general manager of the Pennsylvania road, who was drafted for the job, was one of the most masterful men of the day, and when transportation problems were under consideration he had his way even against Stanton, and it is related that he actually terrorized the generals whose troops were being handled by his lines.

British losses due to submarine attacks show a falling off for last week. The Germans seem to be able to do little more with their undersea effort than to continue to fool their own people.

Admiral Jellicoe has been promoted out of the job of first British sea lord and into the peerage. The British have reached that stage of the war when even a popular idol cannot hold on if he is not sizing up to the responsibilities of his job. We are quite likely to reach that stage much quicker than they did on the other side, and we labor under the disadvantage of not having any peerage to kick the misfits upstairs into.

Fuel Administrator Garfield yesterday told the Senate committee investigating the fuel situation of the nation that the more coal the mines produced the more they added to the troubles of the railroads. Yet there are a lot of ignorant people in and out of office who think the coal operators are in some way to blame for the fuel famine.

It is estimated that the new policy with regard to the railroads will cost the public \$100,000,000 additional next year, either in the form of direct payments from the treasury or in higher rates. The big thing about the change is that the roads are now certain to get the money they need. It was the uncertainty about that which made their financial problems so hard to solve in the past.

SHORT AND SNAPPY

John Barleycorn has seven more years in which to tidy himself up and become a man or his very presence even will possibly not be tolerated by the people.—Wheeling Register.

The people who help the German spies impede war preparations by passing their fake yarns are often the same ones who think our government is awfully slow getting started.—Clarksburg Exponent.

The Kaiser better get his mouth puckered to take bitter medicine within the near future.—Uniontown Evening Genius.

Who says a corporation has no soul? The Monongahela Valley Traction company has made an announcement to the people of Williamstown that any person there who needs wood to heat his home, and is unable to purchase it, will be supplied free with the fuel.—Parkersburg News.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

And that's about all their local circulation depends upon—nabst.

And the loafer habit of the local representative is going to kill it.

WHAT GERMANY'S VICTORY WOULD MEAN.
BALTIMORE, Dec. 22.—[Editor The West Virginian]—In Prussia's cheap and profitable wars of the past lies the explanation of the present murderous assaults on the peace of the world. In letting Germany see that Prussianism can also bring overwhelming disaster is to be found the only remedy. The Germans have been parading their "will to victory". They forget that, while human will has done much to shape human history, in order to succeed in a great world cause it must lie close beside the will of God. The struggle is a clear-cut fight between wrong in its most hideous and universal forms and right most unquestioned. Success for the Germans cause would mean the tri-

OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE



Evening Chat

The end of last summer saw Cadorna's army on the point of making the long hoped for break in the Teutonic lines. But Italy ran short of wheat. In September the all important bread ration of the Italian soldier had to be cut from 750 grams to 600 grams a day. The next month the Germans attacked, and the Italian line crumpled.

The United States Food Administration had not been created by Congress until August 1th. There is no particular reason why it should not have been created two months earlier. Its work is to prevent just such contingencies as the cutting of the Italian ration.

The work of the Food Administration is two jobs rather than one. The first task is to see that the food in the more concentrated forms is saved from unnecessary consumption here in order that it may be shipped to Europe.

As part of this task Mr. Hoover asks every American to eat each day one ounce less of sugar than he usually eats. Is he trying to inflict a hardship when he asks that? Americans who do as he requests will still eat three-fourths of their normal consumption of sugar. But the English are getting only a little more than one fourth as much sugar as they used to eat.

American confectioners have been putting 400,000 tons of sugar a year into candy. That amount of sugar would all but supply the entire English demand at the present rate of consumption. Recently the administration has cut the candy makers down 200,000 tons a year. The money value of the sugar so saved is enough to feed all of Belgium for one year.

In restricting the candy makers the Administration was performing the second part of its task—that of controlling the distribution of food supplies. In its conservation work the Administration deals directly with producer and consumer. On the side of control it deals with the manufacturer and the wholesaler.

But keeping down the cost of living is not the primary object of the Administration. It opposes hoarding, not so much because hoarding raises prices, as because it keeps food out of the market at the very times when it is most seriously needed. The Administration's licensing system has practically eliminated hoarding. Jobbers, wholesalers and big retailers can do business only if they have a license. If they are caught hoarding, a forfeiture of their license puts them out of business forthwith. Public opinion keeps the small retailers in line—where patriotism doesn't do it.

The world's food situation is bad—but in four months' fighting the United States Food Administration has got it pretty well under control.

Worthington

I. O. O. F., Elect Officers
Worthington Lodge No. 719 I. O. O. F., at their meeting on Tuesday evening, December 25th, elected the following officers for the ensuing term: Noble Grand, S. K. Jacobs; Vice-Grand, W. B. Malleme; Recording Secretary, John C. Jacobs; Financial Secretary, Claude J. Davis; Treasurer, A. L. Mason. They will be installed some time in next month.

Funeral Services.

Funeral services over the remains of Mrs. Mary Eleanor Parish were held at her late residence on Wednesday morning at 10:00 o'clock, conducted by Rev. A. M. Ritenour, of Morgantown, pastor of the local Baptist church. Interment was made in the Cochran cemetery on Helen's Run. W. J. S. Harmer & Son, undertakers of Shinnston, had charge. A large number of relatives and friends were present. Among those from a distance were Jas. L. Jarish and daughter Edith of Hundred, Mrs. Warren B. Anglin of Denbow, Pa., George W. Parish and son, of Marlon, Ohio; William E. Shaver, of Loveland, O.; Mrs. Wesley Work, of Kingmont; Ephraim Ashcraft of Fargington.

Moved To Worthington

Mr. and Mrs. Homer P. Caldwell have removed from Bethlehem to Worthington and occupy rooms in the Mary M. Martin building.

Personals

Mrs. J. W. Geddes spent Christmas with her grandmother, Mrs. Ann R. Tetric, of Enterprize.

Rufus L. Messenger and Jas. T. Taggart, of Clarksburg, were Christmas visitors in Worthington.

George W. Murray of Adena, Ohio, is spending the holidays with relatives and friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse M. Wood were shopping in Fairmont on Monday.

Thos. F. Smith, who is employed of Van Vorhis, came up to spend Christmas with his family.

Blake Billingslea who is a student at the University, is spending the holiday vacation with his parents here.

J. Riets, Lake, of Monongah, was transacting business in town on Wednesday.

Mrs. L. M. Kuhn, of Monongah, was a business visitor here on Wednesday.

Lawrence G. Sandy was in Manington on Wednesday afternoon on business with the military department. He desires to enlist in the Quartermasters' Reserve Corps for immediate service.

Lon. H. Davis, of Davis Ridge, was hopping in town on Wednesday afternoon.

Marvin L. Wood, of Akron, Ohio, is visiting relatives here at present.

Mrs. Harold B. Starn, of Annabelle, was shopping in town on Wednesday.

The following are a few incidents observed on the street and in the stores and theatre last week:

A very generous young man with three ladies stood at one of the popular jewelry counters in the city. Each lady in turn selected her own gift and received very much satisfied with being

allowed her choice in the matter. The young man urged them to select more gifts which they did until they were laden down with small packages. With much laughter they left the store.

A youngster stopped in front of one of the gaily decorated show windows and pointed out the gifts he expected Santa to bring him Christmas morning. He was most painstaking in his directions and selected about everything of value in the window. "It seems to me," said his mother, "you are not leaving anything for the rest of the children in the city." The child hesitated, "Oh, well," was the final decision, "I guess their own mothers can attend to that." Which goes to prove that many of the small imps now as well as we do who Santa is but find it more diplomatic to keep up the delusion.

In one of the picture houses yesterday a lady with a ball of yarn had a moving picture all her own. As she got up to leave she dropped her ball and hurried up the aisle. Behind her trailed the ball slowly unwinding. The usher tried to catch it and when he did the lady was well out of the door. He presented a rather odd sight as he hurried along behind her winding up the ball as he went. Many had a good laugh over it.

Speaking of coal, a Fairmont woman recently returned from a visit to Cleveland says it is costing nearly \$10 a ton there delivered and is scarce at that. A matron in an orphan home during the recent weather became so worried at not being able to get coal that she broke down and cried. She was finally compelled to put about two hundred children to bed to keep them warm.

Prices in Cleveland are even higher than prices here on some things. Gingham and white goods sell for about ten cents higher on the yard. A Fairmont-er who spent some time there says she likes her city the best. There is some difference in running over to the stores here and getting waited on in short order. In Cleveland as in other large cities, one rides about an hour on the street car and waits about an hour to be waited on. Going to town means giving up at least a day and cannot at all be considered a mere hour's task to be planned at the last moment, as Fairmonters are in the habit of doing.

A small curly white dog in the city looking very much like somebody's muff, accompanied a small girl into one of the theatres Monday and sat up on the seat beside her enjoying the performance immensely. Whenever the child clapped, the dog barked. Not a full sized bark but a sort of muffled "burr-burr" meaning "good, good." The dog looked directly ahead at the picture from beneath a mop of fringe and was so intensely in sympathy with his small mistress' opinions that all he had to do was look at her and instantly he felt the same way too.

In filling out questionnaire blanks at the court house last week, one of the men asked the lawyer who assisted the following question: What does Am I physically sound mean? "Why," said the lawyer, "it means do you have anything wrong with your health—are you all right in every way?" After the blank had been filled and the man had left, he returned. "Say," he said, "if a fellow had his leg off, would he be physically sound?" The man in question was minus a limb.

One of the boys in the city came down the hill near town on a bicycle today through very slippery ice and snow and found the adventure all that he had expected.

NEURALGIA
For quick relief
rub the forehead
and temples with
VICK'S VAPORUB

BONA BLEND COFFEE
Your neighbors,
your friends, and many
other people are using
BONA COFFEE
and will not be content
with any other kind. Ask
them all about it. There's
a reason.

Money Helps to Make a Merry Christmas
Here's the Way to Have Both

WATCH IT GROW!

Christmas Savings Club
Hundreds are flocking to join our Christmas Savings Club and you should not let the chance go by
Costs nothing to become a member—no fees, no fines, nothing to lose.

CLUB NOW FORMING—JOIN
It will enable you to save when you couldn't do it otherwise. You will have money for Christmas or other use and wonder how you accumulated so much.
A little each week regularly. Watch your savings grow.
It's a great co-operative plan. You get your share of the general benefit.
Save for your family and friends. Get others to join.
Act now while you are thinking about it.
CALL FOR PARTICULARS.

The Peoples National Bank of Fairmont